

## CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A method for providing a set of software components out of which a software application to be executed by an apparatus comprising processor means and memory means can be partly or entirely assembled, said method comprising:

assigning a different numeric identifier to each component of said set of software components; and

- 10 storing each assigned numeric identifier in the corresponding component.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the numeric identifier comprises a bit-length of 8 or 16 bit.

- 15 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising loading two or more of said components together in the same step into said memory means of said apparatus, and storing said components therein.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

loading a software application into said apparatus and storing said software application in said memory means;

5 providing means for instantiating said loaded components upon request of said software application;

loading said means for instantiating into said apparatus; and

10 storing said means for instantiating in said memory means.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said apparatus with a full Java Virtual Machine being able to execute every Java instruction.

15 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said apparatus with a limited Java Virtual Machine being able to execute only certain Java instructions.

7. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of claim 1.

20 8. A system comprising means adapted for carrying out the steps of claim 4.

9. A computer program product loadable into memory means of a digital computer, comprising software code for performing the steps of claim 1.

5 10. A computer program product loadable into memory means of a digital computer, comprising software code for performing the steps of claim 4.

10 11. A device comprising processor means and memory means, such as a chip card, a Java Card, a set-top box or a Personal Digital Assistant, in which a set of software components is stored, wherein each of said software components comprises a different numeric identifier, preferably comprising a bit-length of 8 or 16 bits.

12. The device of claim 11, further comprising:

a stored software application; and

15 means for instantiating said software components upon request of said software application.